

4/14/71

Dear Paul (JNS?)

Read your very good memo on FBI interception of letters written by Lee Harvey Oswald, 4/8/71 before bed last night. At the beginning I felt you might feel some suggestions I would make might be far out, though I believe I've written about some of my unofficial material on the paranoid among us may have dried up. By the time I got to the end, I realized you are now entertaining as a suspicion what I have long regarded as a fact. In case you've forgotten, the very first words I wrote on this subject, in a proposed lead-and-summary for a magazine piece, the antagonistic reception to which is what decided me to do a book and that on the Report, were "Lee Harvey Oswald could not have been persona non grata to the FBI."

Before getting into that, I want to note something I should have included in the memo I wrote you last night on your letter to Kleindienst. I presume you are aware of it and nonetheless wrote as you did, but the FBI, I think Belmont, did bring the entire Oswald file and the Commission refused to look at it. FBI "security" seemed to be their mission, not truth.

Generally speaking, I think it is fair to assume that where the FBI at that period had photographs rather than xeroxes as their original copies, it is because they did have an inside agent. Photo equipment is much less bulky and can easily be carried and hidden. It also costs much more, takes more time, requiring processing.

Have you considered the possibility (B) that LHO himself provided the letter and env.? Remember what I wrote in WW about this identical letters to both the Tortskyite and Stalin Communists, the same day, and his letter to the Socialists? I think he started early. Remember, Robert said his favorite TV show was Philbrick, I was an Agent for the ~~KMM~~ FBI, or something like that. If it need not be true, it ought not be ignored.

And, on case I didn't send it to you, as I thought I did, or you have forgotten, for some time I have had reason to believe LHO was both PSI and SI, and here you can see my correction in your Bagdikian letter. By the way, on that, the DJ would not tell them what it meant, and I did tell Betty Medsger, who wrote some of the stories. They though it had some thing to do with student, and DJ encouraged this belief. They though part-time student informant and student informant.

If you accept that of which I am certain, and which I'd like to go no further than you and JNS, reconsider your closing lines before "other interceptions" an 2 and is it weird, the "degree to which it was hidden"?

Next, under (2), consider the broad hint I think I made in O in NO about Fain's interview, none of which can be explained as he did, not to the rational mind. And its conditions, LHO's reaction, according to Marina, etc. I think this was the beginning the leaning on him, that his being a PSI began at this point.

On 3, second par. There remains the possibility, and I do not press it as probability, that Ruth Paine may have been the source. Remember, she admitted making a copy. Why? I met her, then Michael, didn't try to get anything out of them because I figured I wouldn't anyway, and decided instead to try and size them up. They are a strange pair and strange separately. They can't believe some of the shit they say, they are too intelligent. Like on the things that had to be questioned, they had no questions because all the Commission people were such honorable men. They both know their Marc Antony. There are grounds for having suspicions, if not the most persuasive. If some of the things can be explained by the stress, like Ruth's ok for a warrantless search with all their ACLU background and pliticial sophistication, their leaving during a search is more difficult, as is their vulnerability because of Michael's defense-type employment with the family background. When their house burned, they moved into an expensive one. However, the furniture was not good.

If you consider that LHO had a role, does your middle graph, beginning "In June 1964", have any more meaning. Believe me, not only did the FBI know but I confirmed from ~~down~~ ^{down}

have any meaning. Believe me, not only did the FBI know but I confirmed from dependable sources that there never was any FPCC activity in N.O. From this I suggest the use of "significant" can be a mask to hide the possibility that LHO's role was to smoke it out, that it, to get the pro-Castros to identify themselves. There were a few, and Orest did inform on them. (I expect to hear from him this week. Got a friendly note saying he'd call me, supposedly on his way back from N.Y., but I have to spend Friday in D.C. and go there again Sat night). In this connection, remember deB was fluent in Spanish. I recall nothing of this from the WC material but I found friends and college mates of his. And those with whom he worked. His beat included the ITM-where there was no "Cuban consulate".

For your thinking on this let me refer again to O in NO: no affidavit from Kaack and there were two agents who showed when he asked to be interviewed by the FBI. Quigley is only one of them. The other's existence is never acknowledged, and this was not because Liebelot was unaware of it.

If either of your suggestions under "What the FBI did when it got the EPCC letter" is acceptable and tenable, I tend to believe it was not careless incompleteness, that the FBI was hiding what could lead to official acknowledgement of any connection with the accused assassin. Even hiding who was an informant could explain it, when you consider the extremes to which they go, example Mitchell's recent statement after the Media theft.

No reconsider your second graph here and ask if there is not a good reason for sending deB to Dallas, of all the available agents? This was done fast, as soon as anyone in DC could think and react, possibly on NO recommendation. Now his "beat" in N.O. was very important. It included the ITM, where there was always a serious security problem, considering the kinds of foreign notables they were always bringing to N.O., esp. the fascist dictators. With this kind of hazard existing in N.O. where he was the expert, with all that stuff stashed in his noodle and all his connections, he was not sent to Dallas, with all the competent agents available, for no good reason. Plus his own knowledge of LHO.

P 4, graph 3: agreed, but does the foregoing give it a different context?

Re-examine under "What Should Have Been Done", especially when you recall the obfuscatory nature of Wall's "investigation" of the renting of the space by the CRC and that strange man who used an office there. Even though he was under wraps, Newman told me he was explicit to Wall, that Banister had personally, not through Jack Martin, arranged for this space for the CRC. There were two different men there, one likely LHO and the other certainly, as I conjectured in O in NO, Ernesto Rodriguez, Jr (who supplied the dited translation of the LHO radio comments) Ernesto confirmed his part to me, gave me a superficially reasonable explanation. Koke May considered that Ernesto was working for the FBI, even when I interviewed him. And Ernesto did let Hornley's friend and associate in the "Discordian Society" have free space at his St. Charles offices. He and Roger "ovinm the friend, gave me identical reasons for his kicking Roger out. LHO did appear at Ernesto's when Ernesto was moving his offices. Again, does not the foregoing add to the last sentences in your penult. graph? And especially, in terms of motivation, consider the first sentence of the last graph. Aside from what I think I've sent you, I'll tell you more of Hosty when we are face to face again. His function was not as represented and he did harass, more than LHO is admitted to have alleged. His disciplining was not for the remark to Leavelle, if that is to whom he is said to have made that comment on capability. It was for failure and getting caught.

If you can share them, I'd appreciate two copies, and if you can, because I do forget, I'd like you to put at the top of one File#Hoch Memos and the other, Put with declassified docs. I'd like to cut up the second and attach to the pages as I go over and file them. I'm filing this copy, which I have marked, under Agent Oswald...And it is important to keep my hints close. The breach of security that has already taken place, of which I can't comment, may already endanger somebody, because the jaw was flapped to one of our worst jaw-flappers. It is so serious that I've told the one doing this for me that either he henceforth deals with me alone or I don't deal with him at all. I had warned him against what he did and he did it anyway. Good as his stuff is, the danger is that great.